



Department of Commerce

Office of Homeless Youth Advisory Committee

August 31, 2016

10:00 AM- 1:30 PM

Central Washington University, Student Union Building

SURCA 301 – Executive Board Room

400 East University Way

Ellensburg, WA 98926

In Attendance:

Casey Trupin, Raikes Foundation (chair)

Melinda Giovengo, YouthCare (vice-chair)

Kim Justice, Office of Homeless Youth (staff)

Jake Fey, State Representative

Katara Jordan, Building Changes

Kris Hermanns, Pride Foundation

Linda Kochmar, State Representative

Bridget Cannon, Volunteers of America

Sierra Phillips, Mockingbird Society

Mark Miloscia, State Senator

David Frockt, State Senator (via phone)

Vincente Acosta, Othello School District

Cole Ketcherside, Office of Homeless Youth (staff)

Meeting goals:

- Prioritize recommendations for strategic plan
- Outline next steps to finalize strategic plan

TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER/ FACILITATOR	MATERIALS	ACTION
10:00- 10:15	Welcome & Introductions	Casey Trupin	Meeting Agenda	Re-schedule the November committee meeting
Casey welcomed everyone and went over the agenda. Attendees introduced themselves. Casey reviewed the committee's working agreements. Kim talked about rescheduling the November committee meeting . Committee members identified that October 5th would work for most. Melinda will not be available but agreed to check in with Kim prior to the meeting, which will be in SeaTac.				

10:15- 10:30	Debrief of Youth Leadership Summit			Sign thank you cards for Supreme Court Commission and Mockingbird
<p>Sierra debriefed the Youth Leadership Summit which for the first time included YEAH and the OHY. Sierra said a lot of times foster care and homeless youth are the same, which is what brought her to the summit. Erin from the Mockingbird Society said there were over 200 attendees. For ten years, youth at the summit have presented to just the Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care.</p> <p>Casey's big take away was the incredible overlap between the recommendations for child welfare reform and what would prevent youth homelessness. Melinda was struck by how interconnected and developmentally normal the requests were. Rep. Fey was struck by how articulate the speakers were. Vincente was not at the summit but wants to get a copy of a recording. Erin said she would follow up, and pointed out the handout with the recommendations from the summit. Sierra's favorite part was connecting with other chapters. Kris said the suggestions were pragmatic, would have profound changes on young people's lives, and were things we would want for our own children. A couple of the recommendations articulated where the accountability for change was but others did not. Kris talked about the importance of making that clearer. Katara was excited by YEAH's presentation. She thinks while youth aging out of foster care and homeless youth face many of the same challenges, we tend to conflate the two. Katara felt many of the solutions focused on what to do for youth aging out of foster care, and not so much on youth experiencing homelessness. Sierra said it was cool there was a youth sitting on the Supreme Court Commission. Kim said the young people worked throughout the year to refine these proposals and it shows they know what they are talking about. It's incredible to see the depth of knowledge on these issues. Kim passed around two thank you cards for the Commission and Mockingbird for committee members to sign.</p> <p>Rep. Kochmar has been talking to Auburn Youth Resources (AYR) about having a drop in center in Federal Way. She said AYR talked to the mayor of Federal Way but they are refusing to give them money. Rep. Kochmar wants to know how she can get AYR in her city.</p>				
10:30- 10:40	Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness (YAEH) update	Sierra Phillips		
<p>Mockingbird's YEAH chapter has hired a new Engagement Specialist, his name is Clay Scott. They spent time at their last meeting getting to know Clay and discussing next steps, which include working with community partners on their goals. Kris asked where the youth representatives are drawn from. Sierra said they have two YEAH chapters, one in the University district of Seattle, and the other in downtown Seattle. Sierra said they have talked about starting a chapter in Spokane. Kris asked if the meetings were open. Clay said the meetings are open to the public, and it's always great when advocates come with youth.</p>				
10:40-10:45	Approve 7/14 meeting minutes	Melinda Giovengo	Meeting minutes	Approve 7/14 meeting minutes as amended

Rep. Fey motioned to approve the minutes. Casey recommended some amendments to fix typos, and clarify one of his recommendations. Melinda asked to approve the minutes as amended. All approved.				
10:45-11:00	OHY updates	Kim Justice	News release for grant awards	
<p>Kim shared that OHY awarded 2.5 million in new grants to expand existing services and to launch two new programs for 18-24 year olds including a shelter and housing. This will be the first time state funding has been target towards young adults to help address gaps in service. Kim said we've also stretched geographically into new communities including Island, Kitsap, Benton, Franklin, Cowlitz, and Pend Oreille Counties, and targeted some resources in south King County.</p> <p>Senator Miloscia asked where the funding gaps are across the state. Kim said Courtney Noble's report is a great resource for understanding the gaps. Rep. Kochmar said there is a break between where services are where youth are which makes it difficult for youth to get to services. Bridget said it's great to hear about Pend Oreille because VOA gets a lot of kids from that area. Those kids will be able to stay in their own community. Melinda asked what Multi-Service Center will be doing. Kim said they will be operating a Young Adult Housing Program. Katara asked if services for young adults are available to young parents as well. Kim said they certainly can be. Melinda suggested we call that out more.</p> <p>OHY did not receive many applications for HOPE/CRC beds, all proposals came from Pierce and King County. Kim said that speaks to capacity issues in smaller communities. It takes a lot to build, secure, and fund a facility. OHY also had a rapid timeline for applying, and it takes time to get licensed. This echoes things in the plan for creating targeted approaches in smaller communities. Kim asked providers in Yakima why they didn't apply, and they said they are pursuing host homes instead.</p> <p>Casey asked how new funding is impacting services. Melinda said it's been a vast improvement in terms of having dedicated funding to hire permanent staff. The funding model is a lot easier. Passing licensing is still difficult. Melinda and Bridget are wondering if there is another type of funding or model that can be used. Melinda is interested in 16-21 year old emergency shelters. Kim clarified she is hearing they're looking for different licensing standards. Bridget said their license for overnight youth shelter is under the group care licensing but they are not a group care facility. They don't take custody of the youth, and youth choose to be there.</p> <p>Senator Miloscia asked how long youth stay in the shelter. Bridget said as long as they need. Senator Miloscia asked if there are services attached to the shelter. Bridget says there are lots of services, but they are voluntary. Senator Miloscia said he thought there were time limits on stays. Bridget clarified that licensing standards are different for youth shelters. Senator Miloscia asked if youth remain anonymous. Bridget said the youth has to provide them with a name, and they have to get permission from a legal guardian. If they cannot get parental permission they call CPS.</p>				

Bridget says the new funding has allowed VOA to expand through a partnership with the City of Spokane. VOA now has 24 units for housing young adults, and they've increased outreach. Melinda said in terms of gaps, YouthCare is the only transitional living provider in King County serving 15-17 year olds with only 9 beds. YouthCare has been kicked out of their continuum of care for Pathways, their under eighteen program. Melinda says we need to think about longer term issues for 16-17 years olds who are not eligible for foster care and are not going back home.

Senator Miloscia wants to know why youth don't go home. Melinda says it's mainly because of abuse. Senator Miloscia asked why youth don't go into the CPS system. Melinda said they are not found eligible. Sierra stayed at Pathways and was shocked there are only nine beds. Sierra has friends who've messaged her on Facebook looking for a place to stay. Casey said perhaps we invite CA to come and explain why youth are not being found eligible for dependency if their parents won't take them back or there is abuse at home. Senator Miloscia says he's asked CA and they say the youth are not being abused. Senator Miloscia said if CA is ignoring abuse of children than that's a headline in tomorrow's paper. Casey says we should have CA present regarding their criteria for abuse and neglect. Sierra said foster care parents often want children, and that's why even older youth who are taken into the foster care system can't find a placement. Casey said that should not be a driver for why youth are found ineligible for foster care.

Kim says we expect to see a shift in the number of dependent youth staying in HOPE/CRC beds. As we have taken on oversight, we are starting to align more with the intended purpose of the programs. OHY has one provider, Spruce Street, which had 18 SCRC beds who will be going down to 6 beds because they've decided to convert 12 of those beds to DSHS beds. Conversely, we have 3 providers who have given up some of their DSHS beds to take on more HOPE beds. Sierra asked if youth at Spruce Street will have to follow the same rules. Kim said those beds will no longer be secure, and so they will no longer have that level of security.

A Way Home Washington has been planning and convening a listening tour which has involved Kim and First Lady Trudy Inslee. They have gone to Yakima and Tacoma already, and later this month will be in Snohomish and Clark County. Kim said they asked three broad questions. What does homelessness look like in your community? What are the gaps? And, what's working well? There have been themes like increasing capacity for housing, challenges unique to smaller communities, and the need for integrated services. Katara asked if that feedback is from both youth and providers. Kim said it's mostly providers but aligns well with what youth have shared. Senator Miloscia asked what A Way Home Washington was, and Kim and Casey provided a quick overview. First Lady Trudy Inslee and YEAH chapter members like Escobar are co-chairing the initiative.

Kris asked if there are plans to schedule listening sessions beyond the four currently scheduled. Kim said not currently. Kris suggested the tri-cities area since it is a services desert. Senator Frockt asked about the conditions in tri-cities. Melinda says the tri-cities has the highest incidences of youth being sexually exploited in the state. Senator Frockt asked why there are no services in the tri-cities. Melinda said it's mostly political will. Kris said it's similar to what Rep. Kochmar shared earlier in that there is no recognition of the problem. Kris suggested having the listening tour in that location could put a spot light on the issue. Rep. Kochmar said money that

could be available for these projects might be being spent on other priorities, and we need to change that. Casey said the report that Courtney Noble worked on will be distributed more broadly under A Way Home Washington.				
11:00- 12:15	Strategic plan priority setting	Kim Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft priority proposal • YAEH and WACHYA recommendations • Draft strategies 	Identify priority recommendations
<p>Kim discussed current strategic planning efforts, and highlighted key partnerships that have been instrumental in helping to shape the plan (i.e. YEAH, WACHYA, and various state agencies, especially Children’s Administration). Kim said consultation with state agencies could benefit from an interagency group on these issues.</p> <p>Kim asked the group to look at the recommendations from the Mockingbird Youth Summit and WACHYA. Kim has drafted a short list of potential priorities. Kim gave a brief overview of the recommendations from the summit. Kris said the draft plan parallels the recommendations from the Mockingbird and YEAH chapters, however, Kris suggested incorporating examples to illustrate those recommendations. Kim asked Erin to briefly share what WACHYA is and how they came to their priorities. Erin said WACHYA had a convening in July asked the group to narrow down and prioritize their recommendations. Mockingbird is not the lead on these items. Many of the member organization will be taking the lead on these items in the coming months.</p> <p>Rep. Fey wants to get more on the issue of education and employment. Erin says that different populations are called out under the state definition of basic education. The ideal goal would be to include homeless students in the state’s definition of basic education. Erin says ban the box would eliminate the box that requires information about criminal history. Casey says the intent is to allow the person to get further into the employment process without being hindered by criminal history. Senator Frockt asked if other states have adopted the “ban the box” policy. Casey said we could send an email about that. Seattle has implemented the policy. Erin said someone from the WACHYA coalition will follow up with Senator Frockt.</p> <p>Senator Miloscia asked what “ban the box” has to do with addressing youth homelessness. Melinda said youth in their Youth Build program cannot find employment because of the box. Bridget asked if this applies to youth with status offenses. Melinda said you don’t have to mark for status offenses. Senator Miloscia says there was action in the house and the senate on this bill. The hang up comes from landlords. Senator Miloscia supports it but feels this issue is off the topic of addressing homelessness. Melinda says you can’t exit homelessness unless you have a job. Rep. Kochmar asked about the work training program, if that was provided while youth were incarcerated. Melinda says it’s provided afterwards. Rep. Kochmar asked how we can tie apprenticeship programs into these</p>				

efforts. Sierra says she has a friend who has been homeless for a long time. He went to prison and now he can't get a job. Casey says this speaks to what gets included in the plan and what does not. Melinda reminded everyone this is the advocate's priorities and we can decide what to include in the OHY plan.

Senator Frockt asked about the document recording fees. Senator Frockt says ever since he has been in the Legislature this issue has been highly politicized. Senator Frockt says the OHY plan should make a statement that the document recording fees is a funding priority for homeless youth. Senator Miloscia says the OHY report belongs to the Governor, who will decide what gets included. Senator Miloscia says a strategic plan is something different. What's getting written is the administration's recommendation to the Legislature. Katara wanted to echo Senator Frockt's statement. This is likely to be a priority for the Housing Alliance. The youth and other homelessness tracks have been running separately, and the plan needs to make a statement on the importance of this issue.

Kim said the next step is to talk about prioritizing and identifying top recommendations from the plan. Kim reviewed her draft top five priorities, and asked for feedback. Are these the right five priorities and are the strategies within them on track?

Rep. Fey asked what was left out. Kim said we talked a lot about expanding housing options which is not explicitly called out but is somewhat included under equitable services. Bridget said it is also under education. Kim said healthcare and permanent connections is not explicitly included. Melinda asked about the time span for the plan. Kim said it gets provided one time on December 1st, but she would like to see it continue as a working draft. Kim asked for thumbs up, down, or flat depending on whether or not members of the committee would support, not support, or needed something changed to support the plan.

The following committee member's thumbs were flat including Kris, Katara, Melinda, Bridget, Sierra, and Rep. Fey. Senator Miloscia's thumb was down. The group discussed what is still needed to get people to thumbs up.

- Kris said we should address structural things that keep youth homeless like employment and legal issues.
- Katara agrees employment is missing but she is not sure if it's the role of OHY to work on that.
- Melinda said you can't break the cycle of homelessness without employment, so it should be called out.
- Rep. Fey says we need to make sure there is the right kind of housing choices. He is not sure how we can do anything else if we don't have the housing piece. Rep. Fey says there are programs out there for employment.
- Melinda said often there is an attitude that housing is a pathway to employment rather than looking at employment as a pathway to housing.
- Bridget said employment is huge in helping young adults get out of homelessness. They can get their own place, and become independent. An employment opportunity at sixteen is important to preparing them for employment as adults.
- Senator Miloscia asked how employment is useful for homeless youth. There should only be the choice of the youth returning home or going into the dependency system, and he is not interested in talking about emancipation.
- Sierra talked about YouthCare's barista program and how it helped her get a job once she turned eighteen. She also said

landlords look at employment history.

- Rep. Kochmar says youth use the money from jobs to help fund the things they need like education.
- Melinda says their barista program has graduations, and at every one a parent comes up to say they appreciate the program because it helped the youth want to come home. She says there is a place for employment in family reconciliation.
- Sierra wants to see harm reduction treatment models added for addressing drug/alcohol use. Casey commented saying that could fall under crisis intervention and prevention strategies.
- Senator Miloscia said there is nothing about an analysis of gaps in the system. He doesn't see anything regarding the identification of youth. He says the recommendation must include enhanced coordination between providers and strategies for communities to identify youth and ensure their protection. Kim commented it's in the larger plan just not in the priorities.

Kim asked the group to spend five minutes on things in the strategies that are missing.

- Melinda said under addressing licensing standards add foster care licensing for extended foster care.
- Casey would suggest that having the OSPI report every year rather than every two years would be critical.
- Kris asked if we had a conversation around having consistent demographic information collected in all systems.
- Melinda asked why the detention center data was pulled out when a goal is to prevent exits to homelessness from systems. We should be able to track a youth's trajectory across systems.
- Casey agrees some systems need to be called out otherwise they won't think of themselves as part of the homeless system.

12:15- 12:30	Lunch break			
12:30- 1:10	Review next steps in strategic plan development and committee's role	Casey/ Melinda		Identify what the committee needs in order to take an endorsement vote on the plan

Casey said to Senator Miloscia's point we need to be clear about what this document is. It's called a report to the legislature to inform and present recommendations. It's OHY's job to put that report together. Kim shared this has been a collaborative process, and is the reason why we have an advisory committee. It's important to OHY to say this plan has the support of the committee. Casey asked if anyone needs to consult with their agency before endorsing the plan. Bridget and Sierra need to go back to their agencies. Everyone says they can meet the deadline of October 5th. Kim briefly reviewed the contents of the plan.

Casey asked what members need in order to endorse the plan? Is there anything that makes it so you can not endorse the plan?

- Kris said to Senator Miloscia's earlier point about gaps, geographically that really needs to be obvious in the report.
- Melinda said to talk about stable funding streams and to make sure the state wide HMIS system can track what is in the plan.
- Casey suggested specifying if it's a legislative, administrative, or a funding ask. Kim said it becomes difficult because of overlap,

but that most of it is policy and funding.

- Rep. Kochmar said funding asks are going to be difficult because of the state's focus on funding education.
- Rep. Fey asked if we talk about things that need to be maintained like the Homeless Student Stability Program or things that have been on the chopping block for the last five years. Katara said for example the WA Youth and Family Fund.
- Kim mentioned the OHY's funding is all proviso dedicated to very specific things. It's hard to meet needs without flexibility in the budget. It would help to have a single proviso for all OHY program services.
- Senator Miloscia cautioned that with the session coming up legislatures will be picking their own priorities from the plan.
- Rep. Kochmar asked if foundations have focused on youth homelessness. Casey mentioned many foundations focus on ending homelessness including the Raikes Foundation and the Campion Foundation. A Way Home Washington will highlight that.

Kim mentioned the JLARC report will come out in September. JLARC presents to the committee on Sept 14th.

1:10-1:20	Public Comment
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In attendance: Erin Hathaway (Mockingbird), Clay Scott (Mockingbird), Esco Mustapha (Mockingbird), Peter Dolan (Senate MCC), Dylan Brown (Senate LA), Brandy Sincyr (Columbia Legal Services), Jim Theofelis – via phone (Partners for Our Children), Laurie Lippold – via phone (Partners for Our Children), Alison Mendiola – via phone (Senate Human Services Committee), Jon Rudicil – via phone (Senator Frockt's Office)

Erin heard a lot of feedback on the celebration of including youth homelessness in the Mockingbird Summit and also not losing sight of where the populations are distinct. She was excited to see youth proposals called out in the plan.

Jim Theofelis thanked everyone who joined the youth summit. He appreciates Senator Miloscia and Kim's comments on the need for gap analysis. What do we have to do to make sure kids in Yakima don't have to run away to King County to get services? We need to have a multi-year perspective. What would it take to have a genuine system across the state? How do we stabilize funding streams so every year we are not going back to proviso? What's it going to take to bring the office alive? We need to have a comment around behavioral health and treatment. The homeless youth systems are becoming the de-facto mental health system.

1:20-1:30	Check out	Melinda		
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Casey made some final comments including the most important work will be done after December 1st. On September 14th Raikes will be announcing their support for School House Washington. Kris mentioned there are 24 states that have banned the box.

1:30	Adjourn
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